

CDM Federal Programs Corporation

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

October 9, 2001

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Mr. John McGuiggin, P.E. and Ms. Julie Borgesi
U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
55 Broadway, Kendall Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

Subject: Slope Protection to the Base Flood Elevation, Kootenai River
at the Former Screening Plant Site - Libby, Montana

Dear Mr. McGuiggin and Ms. Borgesi:

CDM Federal Programs (CDM) recommends the placement of slope protection (riprap) on the banks of the Kootenai River to Elevation 2081 along the Parker property in Libby, Montana.

The purpose of riprap is to protect the riverbank slope during flooding events. Elevation 2081 was selected because it corresponds to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved base flood elevation at this location on the Kootenai River. The base flood, also known as the "100-year" flood, has about a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. We recommend this as the appropriate level of risk for slope protection that is designed to maintain the integrity of the slope and to protect nearby structures.

We understand that the Owner is requesting from the Government the placement of riprap below Elevation 2081. CDM believes that the installation of riprap below the base flood elevation of 2081 will increase the risks of riverbank slope failure and of damage to structures that are physically located above the base flood elevation. The Government should review these liabilities with the Owner before riprap is installed, particularly if a deviation is proposed to the engineered design plans.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,

CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION

Peter J. Borowiec (signature)

Peter J. Borowiec, Jr., P.E.
Task Manager

cc: Timothy B. Wall, Brent A. McCarthy

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